

# Safe & Strong — An Updated 922 Ministries Plan for COVID-19

## WHEN WILL WE GATHER ON CAMPUS FOR WORSHIP AGAIN?

The short answer is: Soon, and in phases. While restrictions on gatherings have decreased this past week, the number of new cases of COVID-19 in Wisconsin has continued to increase. As has been the case since the beginning of this pandemic, information changes rapidly, which makes long-term planning difficult. At this point, we will not return to our regular worship schedule until June 7th, at the earliest. Until then online worship will continue to be offered as it has been and that will continue after as well. In addition to that, our phase in plan over the next few weeks we will offer viewing parties at both campuses on Sundays where you can watch these service in person and with others. This will allow us to get ready for the weekend of June 7th and allow us to get a better understanding of our worship spaces for proper social distancing and implement our other guidelines on a smaller scale. The worship plan and our 922 phased in approach is explained below.

## 922 GUIDING PRINCIPLES BEING USED TO MAKE DECISIONS

- **We want to help keep you spiritually rooted** - Throughout history, God's people have gathered in a wide variety of places and ways to worship God. The Israelites worshipped in a moveable tent. The Early Church worshipped in people's homes. Paul and Silas worshipped in a jail cell. About 300 years after Jesus' ascension is when Christian worship first started to look similar to what we have today. During the pandemic, we have continued gathering together online. Yes - it's not the same as gathering in person. Yes - we have missed our friends and long for the Sacrament. Thankfully, we have been able to leverage technology and social media to help you stay rooted and Gather! As we phase things in and go forward, we will continue to make this goal a top priority at 922 Ministries whether you feel safer at home or long to gather in person.
- **We want to help keep our 922 family & and community physically safe** - There are countless viruses and flus. What makes this particular virus so challenging is that it silently incubates and spreads without symptoms for weeks, continues to morph in unexpected ways, and is especially dangerous to those who are considered "at-risk." And, of course, there is no vaccine just yet. How we deal with this risk may change from week-to-week, but it's right to take it seriously. Making our campuses as safe as possible from this virus is a top priority for our staff because we know it is concern that our members have.
- **We want to love one another** - Should I wear a mask in public? Should everyone be required to wear masks? Should our buildings be open with no restrictions? Should we sing or not? It's ok if others know where you stand on these issues. But it's more important that you are known as someone who is full of love. "People will know you are my disciples if you love one another," Jesus said. Whenever we get to the end of this, I pray people say of us, "They are obviously Christian friends. Jesus unites them, and nothing else divides them."
- **We will offer both in-person AND online worship options for the foreseeable future** - We have learned that what we did in a room of a few hundred on a Sunday morning doesn't always translate well when people are watching in their living room. We changed our online stream to a more produced, personal gathering that makes better connection online possible. We've learned that some people REALLY like what we're doing online and some actually prefer it! We also know that many of you REALLY miss gathering in person and absolutely prefer it! We will be opening our doors and once again have live services but we also want to make our online offering the best it can be. This will take additional time and effort from our staff because on-line viewers might be as large as our in-person attendance for a while as we move forward.
- **We will continue to listen to the guidance of our elected officials and medical experts** - If we have learned anything during this time it is this - things change quickly and it is a very fluid situation. As we implement our plan for worship and gathering again, we will continue to listen to the advice of our synod's leaders, have conversations with the other pastors in our area (especially our circuit), follow the guidelines implemented by our local and state government if so directed, and continue to listen to the advice of local and national medical experts.

## 922 GUIDELINES FOR RESTARTING WORSHIP

### General Information

- We will practice proper social distancing (6 ft.) and sanitation according to CDC guidelines.
- Online worship will continue even after all gathering restrictions have been lifted.
- We will take a phased in approach to worship over the next six weeks - from what we offer to the number of offerings, from when we will offer communion and how we can best offer it.
- This is a fluid situation, which is something all of us need to remember. Things might change quickly because of the virus or we might change things because it is best for 922 and in keeping with our guiding principles.

### Encouragements

- Make worship decisions based on your own comfort level while also respecting the decisions of others.
- Those who have any COVID-19 symptoms should stay home. People with the following symptoms may have COVID-19: cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell.
- Those at high risk of serious illness or in the at-risk category are encouraged to stay home.
- Masks are welcome, but will not be required. The "CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies), especially in areas of significant community-based transmission." Our staff, like you, will be making personal decisions about this.
- Those who are unable or uncomfortable attending in person worship at this time are encouraged to worship online at home with absolutely no guilt.

### Worship Expectations

- The worship space may be altered to encourage appropriate social distancing.
- Your first weekend back will be different - it's going to feel different, look different, sound different. We will not be able to replicate what we were doing back on March 8th right away.

### Cleanliness

- High-contact surfaces (like pews and door handles) will be disinfected after every service.
- A deeper cleaning will be done in the church, lobby, and bathrooms after each weekend. Members are encouraged to not use the parents room and bathrooms if at all possible.
- Coffee will not be served during the weekend when we do open and for the immediate future.
- Hymnals, connection cards, and pens will be removed from the pews.
- Service folders will not be handed out; the screens will be used to guide all attendees through worship. Online check-in will be encouraged.
- Offerings may be given online or deposited in the designated baskets in the church & lobby.
- Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the building.

### Before and After Worship

- Shaking hands and extended visiting with others is strongly discouraged.
- Doors in the lobby and worship space will remain open, while access past the offices will be restricted.
- Pastors, greeters and ushers will be present in the lobby to provide guidance with these new procedures.

### Holy Communion

- Initially it will be offered outside of the regular worship time.
- It will be distributed differently in order to allow for appropriate social distancing.
- More detailed instructions will be given prior to any celebrations during worship.

## 922 GATHERING AGAIN - PHASE 1

### Weekend of May 24

- Worship will be recorded and streamed Sunday at these times on all 4 channels;
  - 7:30 am - Traditional music
  - 9:00 am & 3:30 pm - Contemporary music
- Members will be able to **VIEW** the recorded service and worship in person at either campus @ 9 am
  - Sign-up is required
  - Space will be limited (25% capacity)

### Week of May 25 - 31

- Worship Wednesday will be streamed @ 6:30 pm
- Worship will be recorded and streamed Sunday at these times on all 4 channels;
  - 7:30 am - Traditional music
  - 9:00 am & 3:30 pm - Contemporary music
- Members will be able to **VIEW** the following services and worship in person if they so desire;
  - St. Peter: 7:30 am (Traditional music) & 9:00 am (Contemporary music)
  - CORE - 9:00 am & 3:30 pm
  - Sign-up required
  - Space is limited

### Week of June 1-7

- Worship Wednesday on June 4 - live @ St. Peter at 6:30 pm
  - Space is limited & Sign-up will be required
- Worship will be held at it's regular days and times;
  - SPL campus - Thursday @ 6:30 pm, Sunday @ 7:30, 9, and 10:30 am
  - CORE campus - Sunday @ 3:30 & 5:30 pm
  - Space is limited (25% capacity in worship space & overflow)
  - Sign-up required
- Members will be able to **VIEW** the following services live on-line;
  - 9 am - St. Peter
  - 3:30 & 5:30 pm - The CORE
- No Communion at either campus

### June 8 - end of the month

- Worship will be held at it's regular days and times;
  - Space is limited (25% capacity in worship space & overflow)
  - Sign-up is required
  - SPL campus - Thursday @ 6:30 pm, Sunday @ 7:30, 9, and 10:30 am
  - CORE campus - Sunday @ 3:30 & 5:30 pm
- Members will be able to **VIEW** the following services live on-line;
  - 9 am - St. Peter
  - 3:30 & 5:30 pm - The CORE
- Communion will be reintroduced
  - 2nd or last Sunday of the month @ SPL during the service
  - 3rd Sunday of the month @ The CORE between services

### Phase 2: July 2020 - ????

- TBD - based the following; a) where things stand with COVID-19, and b) how things went at each campus